

Comment Form

STATE DEPARTMENT

Title: Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption; Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000; Accreditation of Agencies; Approval of Persons; Preservation of Convention Records; Extension of Comment Period
 Subject Category: Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000; Hague Convention-- Agency accreditation and person approval

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Comments Due: December 15, 2003

Phase: PROPOSED RULES

How To Comment:

Commenters may send hard copy submissions or comments in electronic format. Commenters sending only hard copies must send an original and two copies referencing docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, SA-29, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Hard copy comments may also be sent by overnight courier services to: U.S. Department of State, CA/OCS/PRI, Adoption Regulations Docket Room, 2201 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20520. Do not personally hand deliver comments to the Department of State. Comments referencing the docket number State/AR-01/96 or State/AR-01/98 may be submitted electronically to adoptionregs@state.gov. Two hard copies of the comments submitted electronically must be mailed under separate cover as well. Electronic comments must be made in the text of the message or submitted as a Word file avoiding the use of any form of encryption or use of special characters. If you submit comments by hard copy rather than electronically, include a disk with the submission if possible. Hard copy submissions without an accompanying disk file, however, will be accepted.

Your comment has been sent. To verify that this agency has received your comment, please contact the agency directly. If you wish to retain a copy of your comment, print out a copy of this document for your files.

Please note your REGULATIONS.GOV number.

Regulations.gov #: EREG - 18

Date Submitted: Dec 15, 2003

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Comment

I am writing to you opposing to 22CFR Parts 96 and 98 and the Department of State Acquisition Regulation. After experiencing infertility, I began exploring the option of international adoption in 1999. I will trust that you are aware of the lengthy and complicated process adoptive parents are required to go through and will not waste your time with those details. Suffice it to say that from signing the first paper and writing my first check to the agency, it was seventeen months of paperwork, background checks, home studies, writing checks, and WAITING before I could hold my daughter for the first time and bring her home from Guatemala in December 2001. I will let you know that when the process started and I accepted her referral, she should have been home no later that August, but red tape and bureaucracy delayed that homecoming by four months! Needless to say, every i dotted, every t crossed, every penny I saved and spent on her arrival, every tear I cried when her homecoming was delayed was more than worth it. Since getting married last November, my husband and I are planning to adopt another daughter within the next year or two as soon as my loan is paid from the first adoption. But news of new regulations by the Hague Convention will almost assuredly prevent us from adopting again and expanding our family. The fees and costs of the first adoption were more than \$30,000. with most of that covering the international fee for Guatemala. I am a United Methodist pastor and my husband is studying to be a pastor. There is no way we would be able to cover what would surely be an astronomical increase in agency fees if the plan for regulating the Hague Convention are not changed. Any fee that you regulate for international adoption agencies will undoubtedly be passed on to the parents who are searching and working and praying for their children. With fewer parents able to meet the financial requirements, more and more orphaned children from impoverished countries will be abandoned completely. And sadly, most of them will die never knowing how much they truly were wanted and needed. I hope and pray that you will consider regulations that support international adoption and do not discriminate against those of us who are willing to love any baby, any child who needs the love we can offer. And I offer my support in helping to make that happen.